

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Claims 33-35 are new. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14, 21-30 and 33-35 are presented for examination.

Initially, Applicant takes this opportunity to thank the Examiner for engaging in an interview on June 5, 2008 with Mr. Buck and the undersigned to discuss the subject application. Applicant notes that the interview occurred as is reported by the Examiner in the Interview Summary mailed June 9, 2008.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14 and 21-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh (US Patent 6,913,157) in view of Lynn (US Patent 4,387,822). Independent claim 1 sets forth Applicant's claimed apparatus, and has been amended to recite that "at least one of the threads of said second component member [is] uniformly extending along its length at a second lead angle such that the length extending at the second lead angle is free of any portion extending therefrom at an angle different from the second lead angle." Independent claim 24, setting forth another of Applicant's claimed apparatuses, has been similarly amended. Support for these amendments, as discussed in the aforementioned interview, is set forth throughout Applicant's disclosure as filed, and most specifically by Figures 1A and 1B and their accompanying discussion.

In the Office Action under reply, the Examiner states that "Oh discloses a first component having a plurality of male internal threads and a second component having a plurality of female external threads, the internal threads having a plurality of threads with a first thread

(36) having a different lead angle than the other threads (24).” Lynn is cited with respect to the interchangeability of the male and female threads. Further, the Examiner’s “Response to Arguments” expresses that Applicant’s feature of an initial sliding between the respective recited components is merely one of intended use which does not provide a patentable distinction over the applied references, and namely, Oh.

In view of Applicant’s claims 1 and 24, as now amended, it is submitted that Oh does not teach or suggest Applicant’s invention. Oh’s anti-backoff member 36 is described as being oriented “generally parallel to the top wall of the closure,” see column 2, line 14. In this way, member 36 is not oriented at any lead angle provided by Applicant’s invention. Accordingly, Oh does not teach or suggest either of Applicant’s threads having a first or second lead angle, and more specifically, does not teach or suggest a thread having a length at a second lead angle such that the length extending at the second lead angle is free of any portion extending therefrom at an angle different from the second lead angle.

Further, Oh’s anti-backoff members 36 also fail to satisfy Applicant’s invention as claimed since they are not involved in any initial contact between any part of its closure 12 and container 16. More specifically, anti-backoff member 36 resists separation of its closure 12 and container 16, and contacts with the container 16 only after a period of initial engagement between its respective closure threads 24 and container threads 22. See col. 5, lines 51-67. For this reason as well, Oh’s member 36 fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of the threads of Applicant’s invention as claimed since it is the initial sliding of those threads against one another that results in engagement between the recited first and second component members.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims independent claims 1 and 24, and their respective dependent claims, be withdrawn.

With respect to Applicant's independent method claims 21 and 23, Applicant reiterates the discussion as provided during the interview with the Examiner and as stated in Applicant's response of February 12, 2008. In each, Applicant emphasized that upon initial contact of the male and female threads in Oh, all of the contacting threads have the same lead angle, and only after some meaningful rotation would some of the threads contact anti-backoff member 36 (having a different angle). On the other hand, and quite distinctly, the present invention calls for a thread of one component initially contacting (i.e., first contacting) a thread on the other component that has a different lead angle. As previously submitted, Oh's anti-backoff member 36 is explicitly taught to be located near the end of rotation between the components and, therefore, whether or not a space exists between anti-backoff member 36 and a closure thread 24 in Oh, this reference (with or without the teachings of Lynn) neither teaches nor suggests Applicant's feature whereby "one of the threads of the female screw initially slides against a thread of the male screw having the second lead angle to result in the component members engaging each other." With this feature, the reverse of Oh is provided in Applicant's claims since Applicant's initial sliding of the respective threads against one another results in the recited members' engagement. It is this recited result that, as discussed in the interview with the Examiner, deserves a greater level of patentable weight deservedly worthy of removing any application of Oh. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claims 21 and 23, and their respective dependent claims, be withdrawn.

Applicant notes and is appreciative of the Examiner's stated advantage in expressing Applicant's invention in a manner other than that which is provided by the current recitation. However, Applicant deems such a change in recitation unnecessary.

Claims 33-35 are new. Support for each of the features in claims 33-35 is provided in at least various drawings of the application as filed. For example, the features recited in claim 33 are shown in at least Figure 10, and the features recited in both claims 34 and 35 are shown in at least Figure 1A. The allowance of new claims 33-35 is solicited.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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